

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-13 CU-04 RSR-01 VOE-00 SCA-01

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P R 311353Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7043

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS OSLO 3233

FAS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT DIV ERS/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP NO US

SUBJ: VISIT TO US BY NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN JOHAN VIKAN

REF: (A) OSLO 3081 (B) FASTO 3 OSLO

1. MR. AND MRS. JOHAN R. VIKAN WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK AT
1505 ON SEPTEMBER 7 (FRIDAY AFTERNOON). THEY EXPECT TO BE
MET BY NORWEGIAN UN MISSION AND TO STAY AT BEEKMAN TOWERS.

2. VIKAN NOW REALIZES THAT HE MUST BE AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STARTING SEPTEMBER 18, RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER 25. HE HAS
THEREFORE CONDENSED CONSIDERABLY HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND WILL
CONCENTRATE ON ONE AREA, PROBABLY MINNESOTA. IF FAS COULD
MAKE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOR
SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10 IT WOULD BE
HIGHLY APPRECIATED. GIVEN THE SHORTNESS OF TIME, FINAL PLANS
WILL STILL HAVE TO BE MADE AFTER VIKANS ARRIVE.

3. SUPPLEMENTING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IN COPENHAGEN'S
AIRCOMM OF JUNE 26, VIKAN HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN A HIGHLY
INFLUENTIAL PERSONAGE ON THE AGRICULTURAL SCENE IN NORWAY.
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A 61-YEAR-OLD MEMBER OF THE CENTER PARTY, VIKAN IS FROM

NORTH TRONDELAG AND FIRST ENTERED THE PARLIAMENT (STORTING) IN 1969; HIS REELECTION NEXT MONTH SEEMS CERTAIN. HE GRADUATED FROM THE NORWEGIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN 1939 AND THEREAFTER BECAME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN CIVIC AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS WHILE WORKING ALSO AS A FARM MANAGER AND FARMER. MAYOR OF HIS TOWN OF STJORDAL FROM 1952 TO 1956 AND FROM 1960 TO 1966, VIKAN WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MAYORS FOR NORTH TRONDELAG PROVINCE 1963-66. HE HAS SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS IN NORTH TRONDELAG, ON THE BOARD OF A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, AND ON THE GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE NORWEGIAN WELFARE SYSTEM AT THE DISTRICT AND NATIONAL LEVELS. LONG ACTIVE IN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN FARMERS UNION 1966-69. HE IS ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO QUESTION IN REFTEL A AS TO HOW VIKAN CAN ESTABLISH CONTACT, UPON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK, WITH SOMEONE WILLING TO ADVISE AND ASSIST ON HIS TRAVELS IN US.
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